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MUSIC DIVISION ACQUIRES SET OF ETHEL WATERS LETTERS

The Music Division of the Library of Congress recently acquired by purchase a set of 94 letters written by singer Ethel Waters to her secretary-companion Floretta Howard. The letters, annotated by Miss Howard and collected by her under the title "Excerpts from a Secretary's Letters from Her Famous Boss," cover the years from 1951 through 1963.

Most of the letters are from 1951-1952, when Miss Howard was Miss Waters' New York secretary, and the years from 1956 to 1957, when Miss Howard taught a small school based in Miss Waters' Los Angeles home and served as West Coast contact for Miss Waters. The letters from 1951-1952, when Ethel Waters was touring with productions of *Member of the Wedding*, are entertaining and reveal Miss Waters' attitudes on events. Those of the latter period, belonging to the years in which Miss Waters became a part of the Billy Graham Crusade, are important documents in the story of her life. It is in relation to Floretta Howard and the Los Angeles home that Ethel Waters narrates the story of her final conversion in her autobiography *To Me It's Wonderful*.

Ethel Waters was clearly a letter-writer by inclination as well as by necessity, and if the purpose of the letters is often mundane—forward these checks, write this thank-you letter, send the following articles of clothing—the style of the letters is unfailingly breezy and refreshing, making them a delight to read. "The SIGNATURES of ETHEL WATERS revealed her moods and her temperaments," writes Miss Howard in her annotations, and quotes such examples as "Your Weary Boss," "The Slim Princess," "The Human Fish," and "Miss Disgusted with the Rotten Government Waters." Miss Howard might have added that the salutations of the letters often reflect Miss Howard's own previous letters (probably, in fact, Miss Howard's signatures): many a letter starts with such a salutation as "Hi, Teach," "Dear Jump the Gun Flo," "Dear Red Face," or "Hi Salty Sec." Between the salutation and the signature the letters talk candidly and entertainingly of Miss Waters' concerns. Occasionally, even after the signature, a final remark sums up the mood of the day—including once the bitter note "P.S.: I still envy cows who don't have to think."

Many times Miss Waters touches on religion. These passages occur before as well as after her joining the Crusade for Christ. On February 1, 1956, she writes of

Religion meaning *Spiritual Baptism*—where you Experience Something you can not *explain* or *ever forget* yet will *sustain*

A report of the second meeting of the **Network Advisory Committee**, held at the Library of Congress on May 18-19, is included as an appendix to this issue of the LC *Information Bulletin* (pp. 398-400).

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you as long as you *live.* Thats what some folks like to *refer to as Back Woods Fire-Brimstone religion That calls a Spade a Spade.* Like *Billy Graham Oral Roberts Dr. Wyatt. . . .*

At the time of her first joining the Crusade Miss Waters writes (in a letter with the salutation "Dear Tired Jealous Teach"):

But when I see you to talk you will better understand what I feel appears to be a complete change where my work is concerned especially from the singing view point. So who *know* we may yet end up two of God's Traveling Sales Women (*Smile*).

The letters contain many reflections of Miss Waters' craft as an actress and a singer. One particularly revealing letter, dating from 1961, deals with the troubles of singing for small churches:

. . . if it wasnt the Lords work & I do love doing it I wouldnt attempt to try because sometimes the distance is 150 miles each way & Christian folks *dont* have such good cars or rubber yup I'm talking about white folks (smile.) But I don't have *none* [i.e. no accompanist] & some times I run into some who dont read manuscript to well [that is, accompanists who play only "by ear" or from the hymnbook, and thus could not read Miss Waters' arrangements] Then I do have to battle with the devil to keep from getting scared & upset– Then I ask my Saviours forgiveness. . . . This Sun Nov 19 will be my first time singing in all colored church. Yes, I'm praying cause U know how we are when it comes to Belting it *out* & Boppin it *up*–& I dont go for it. But my Lord wants me to go where ever I'm asked & leave *the rest to Him.*

One remarkable revelation of these letters is that Miss Waters believed many of her troubles to be caused by the Communist Party: "You see it's all commie inspired as I refuse to let them use my name for *phoney* causes. . . ." Her descriptions of her dealings with theatrical people are shot through with suspicions of communist influence, with an occasional shout of triumph, such as this during the filming of *Member of the Wedding:* "They have found out I'm not Paul R----- and I dont mean *Revere.*"

There are non-ideological victories as well, including, in the later letters, the victory of someone finally beginning to lose weight:

Right now I'm in shock at being able to wear all the dresses & $200. corsets I bought 1950 at the St. Moritz and get away from Lane Bryants Basement. Praise His Holy Name weather they are in style or not they are brand new to me (smile).

When things go badly–as they often did for her in the 1950s–Miss Waters occasionally trots out a strong word, of which her favorite is "motherless." The U.S. Government, which during the 1950s was hounding Miss Waters for her back taxes, is a favorite target for this word. Not only the Internal Revenue Service is thus orphaned:

. . . .doesn't it seem positively Brilliant for me to send air mail Special to the motherless post office ye Gods knowing you have to walk there to get it unless on second thought it goes right out from this end at once which makes it alright but the government is still motherless.

The Music Division has also recently acquired a single letter of famous dancer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. While this letter, written in 1929 to a night club proprietor, is not of the significance of the Waters correspondence, it is a substantial letter and shows Robinson attending to the business side of his career.

[*Wayne D. Shirley*]

CENTER FOR BOOK HOLDS RECEPTION FOR CHICAGO AUTHORS

Over 150 Chicago area authors attended a reception

Barbara Marcum of Cincinnati, Ohio, recently presented to the Library of Congress a souvenir pendant (top right photograph) that, it is believed, dates from the time of the opening of the new Library building in 1897 or shortly thereafter. Unearthed by Mrs. Marcum's husband, who discovered it following a tornado, the pendant has a hinged lid and was perhaps used as a snuff box or pillbox. It contains no marks to indicate its place of manufacture or composition, but appears once to have been silver- or nickel-plated. It bears the legend, "U S CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY" above the image of the building, and "WASHINGTON, D.C." below it.

Mrs. Marcum (fifth from left, top left photograph) presented the pendant to Associate Librarian Carol Nemeyer (far left) on June 23 while in Washington with a tour group made up of two Girl Scout troops from the Great Rivers Girl Scout Council that serves the tri-state area of Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. The members of her group, after witnessing the presentation, were given a tour of the Library by Nancy Mitchell, special events coordinator.

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in their honor on June 26 in the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center. Cosponsored by the Library of Congress Center for the Book and the American Library Association during ALA's 97th Annual Conference, the reception helped remind conference participants of the importance of those who create books. With the authors, the event drew together representatives of the Chicago book community, the American Library Association, and Library of Congress staff members who were attending the conference.

During the brief program John Y. Cole, executive director of The Center for the Book, explained that such intermingling on the behalf of the book was one of the purposes of the Center, an organization established on the premise that authors and librarians, along with the other segments of the book world, have common interests and must work together to promote books and reading. Other speakers included ALA Executive Director Robert Wedgeworth and Daniel J. Boorstin, The Librarian of Congress. Organizations represented at the reception included the Chicago Public Library, the Chicago Council on Fine Arts, the Writing in Chicago Program at the Chicago Public Library, the Children's Reading Round Table, the Chicago Literary Club, and the Chicago Book Clinic.

STAFF NEWS

AWARDS

Margaret J. Warren, assistant editor of the Dewey Decimal Classification, received a 20-year Federal Service Award pin from Benjamin A. Custer, chief of the Decimal Classification Division, on June 16.

A native of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., Miss Warren received a B.A. degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Minnesota in 1944, and a library science degree from the University of North Carolina in

1960. Before coming to the Library of Congress she worked as a schoolteacher, as an aide in the office of Senator Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota, and as an assistant in the Cornell University Library from 1960 to 1963.

She joined the Library staff in 1963 and the Decimal Classification Division in 1965, where she became assistant editor in 1969. In this position she has participated in preparation of the 18th and 19th full editions of the *Dewey Decimal Classification* and the 10th and 11th abridged editions, and has received two outstanding performance ratings.

During June, 28 Library of Congress staff members completed 10 years of service and received **Federal Service Award** pins:

Charles E. Brown	Restoration Office
Marianne Cheseldine	Preservation Office
Rosalee Connor	Decimal Classification Division
Margaret N. Coughlan	General Reference and Bibliography Division
Johanna T. Craig	Publishing Office
Betty J. Davis	Subject Cataloging Division
Thomas M. Durbin	American Law Division
Mildred O. Flowers	Cataloging Distribution Service
Gwendolyn A. Hoppe	Loan Division
Diane Jackson	American Law Division
Alberta P. Jones	Publishing Office
Maria Korzan	Shared Cataloging Division
Warren W. Lenhart	Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division
Jennifer P. Lockard	Catalog Publication Division
Rozita B. Melson	Cataloging Distribution Service
Cheryl Towne Mitchell	Shared Cataloging Division
Lisa M. Nickerson	Government Division
Robert Overmiller	Exchange and Gift Division
Lola Pickering	Descriptive Cataloging Division
Alex D. Richey, Jr.	Geography and Map Division
James E. Robertshaw	System Development and Standards Office
Deloris A. Singletary	National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

The **Scholars Committee** will hold its next colloquium on Wednesday, July 19, at 2:30 p.m. in the Wilson Room, Library of Congress Building. The speaker is Leonard P. Curry, professor of history at the University of Louisville. His topic is "Anti-Black Rioting in Urban America, 1800-1850." All interested persons are invited to attend.

Robert W. Stewart	Computer Service Center
Thomas W. Synnott	MARC Development Office
Marie F. Trogler	MARC Editorial Division
Alphonso L. Ware	Cataloging Distribution Service
Walter D. Woodbridge	American-British Law Division
Leneice N. Wu	Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Appointments: Thomas Blumer, cataloging assistant, GS-6, DBPH, 5564; Herbert Kidwell, procurement specialist, GS-9, P&S, 5612; Harold Orenstein, research analyst, GS-9, FRD, 5547; Greta Owens, teller, GS-4, FMO, 5728; Peter Vankevich, library aid, GS-3, E&G, PR-102; Brenda Wheeler, fiscal accounting clerk typing, GS-3, FMO, 5700.

Temporary Appointments: Susan Barnett, clerk-typist, GS-1, Cop Inf & Ref, NP; Jack Craig, data entry operator, GS-5, CRS D, 5662; Amy Cullivan, library aid, GS-3, Ord, NP; Patricia Henretty, worker-trainee, GS-1, LL O, NP; Melvin Mitchell, data entry operator, GS-4, CRS D, 5662.

Reappointment: John Sullivan, microphotographer trainee, GT-3, Photodup, OP 5-100.

Temporary Reappointments: Angela Ashton, library aid, GS-3, Ord, NP; Edward E. Bailey, Jr., master files assistant, GS-3, CRS L, 5699; Carol Capps, analyst international relations, GS-11, CRS F, NP.

Temporary Promotions: Constance Crawford, research production assistant, GS-7, CRS A, 5698; Mark German, S&R, to data entry operator, GS-4, CRS D, 5662.

Transfers: Michael Walsh, Desc Cat, to head, Blanket Order Section, GS-11, Ord, 5671; Harvey G. West, Jr., Desc Cat, to staff assistant to chief, GS-9, Ord, 5595.

Resignations: Marjorie Casey, Health; Gail Coppage, LL; Marvin Suttice, CDS.

Correction: Evelyn Brown's promotion listed in this column in the May 19 issue of the LC *Information Bulletin* (p. 319) should have read "senior film editor" instead of "senior filer editor." The editor regrets the error.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

On June 9, **Elisabeth W. Betz,** picture cataloging specialist, Prints and Photographs Division, addressed archivists and historical society administrators on the problems of handling visual resources. This was the second archival techniques workshop sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in which she has participated. Using sample materials from the Library of Congress, she described processing and retrieval methods of non-textual records.

Librarian of Congress **Daniel J. Boorstin** is a newly elected public member of the National Public Radio Board. The board's other new member is David Rockefeller, Jr., former president of the Rockefeller Family Fund. Public members who were reelected at the May meeting of the board are board chairman Edward Elson, the Rev. Thomas Kilgore, Jr., and Maurice Mitchell.

Frank Kurt Cylke, director, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, discussed the influence of technology on braille at a June 21 conference commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Clovernook Home and School for the Blind in Cincinnati, Ohio. Following a brief review of the development of braille printing presses, Mr. Cylke detailed the idea of "Paperless Braille" coded and stored on a magnetic tape so compact that one audio cassette could store a 300-page print book.

On June 14, **Joseph C. Hickerson,** head of the Archive of Folk Song, Music Division, participated in the Cultural Awareness Program of the Defense Mapping Agency's Topographic Center. Mr. Hickerson lectured on European-American folklore and played examples from the Archive's collection of recordings.

On May 20, **Gerald E. Parsons, Jr.,** reference librarian in the Archive of Folk Song, Music Division, was a panelist and workshop leader in a one-day conference entitled "Teaching Folklore in the Public Schools." The event took place on the campus of the Salisbury (Md.) State Teachers College and was sponsored by the college and the Folklife Program of the Maryland Arts Council.

Melissa D. Trevvett, assistant head of the Reference Section, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), presented the first in the 1978 series of Alberta V. Brown Lectures in Special Librarianship on May 23. She discussed services to the blind and physically handicapped at the national level, emphasizing the distinctive aspects of NLS service and technological developments likely to be important to the program in the future. The lecture series was established by the Upjohn Co. at the School of Librarianship, Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Monday, July 17, the **Library of Congress Professional Association** will present a lunchtime program entitled "The Privateers of Chestnut Neck: An Archival and Archeological Investigation." The speaker will be Donald G. Shomette of the Printing and Processing Section, Central Services Division, and chairman of the Maryland Committee for Underwater Archeology. Mr. Shomette will present a lecture and slide presentation documenting the archival and underwater archeological investigation of two Revolutionary War shipwrecks and colonial harbor facilities discovered in the Mullica River, near the strategic privateering center of Chestnut Neck, N.J. Mr. Shomette served as codirector of the underwater survey of these sites, sponsored by the New Jersey State Museum, and prepared the documentation necessary to nominate the sites to the National Register of Historic Places. The talk will begin at noon in the Whittall Pavilion.

The **American Red Cross** has observed that the summer holidays are one of the heaviest periods of requests for blood donations, and has, accordingly, requested that added emphasis be given to Bloodmobile visits at this time. The Red Cross Bloodmobile Unit will visit the Library on Thursday, July 20, from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. in the Whittall Pavilion of the Library of Congress Building. Donors are requested to use regular shuttle bus service to the Library of Congress Building. Staff members wishing to donate blood should register with keyworkers in their respective divisions. In accordance with LCR 2015-17.4, all blood donors may be granted a maximum of four hours excused absence, which includes the actual time spent giving blood and a rest and recuperative period immediately following. The time of donation must be approved by the supervisor and a form 13-73a (Blood Donation Verification) must be submitted to the supervisor following donation. Arrangements for blood replacement for Library personnel and members of their families may be made by calling Michelle Reed, Health Services Office, ext. 6054.

APPENDIX

A REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE NETWORK ADVISORY COMMITTEE May 18-19, 1978

The Network Advisory Committee, which was established by the Library of Congress in 1977 to advise on various issues concerning the Library's role in the evolving national library and information network, held its second meeting at the Library of Congress on May 18-19. The Deputy Librarian of Congress William J. Welsh, who chairs the committee, opened the meeting by reporting on the status of the Library's appropriation bill in Congress.

Mr. Welsh also announced that implementation of the Library's on-line distribution service (reported in the LC *Information Bulletin* of January 20, pp. 49, 52-53) has been postponed indefinitely until certain Congressional issues are resolved. In any event, the data bases of the Congressional Research Service would not be made available.

Warren J. Haas, president of the Council on Library Resources, described the network planning activities in progress at the Council. Using the planning document of the Network Advisory Group (*Toward a National Library and Information Service Network: The Library Bibliographic Component.* Prelim ed. June 1977) as a starting point, staff members at the Council and the Library of Congress Network Development Office prepared a five-year development plan which forms the outline for a program to establish a number of key elements for a comprehensive, computerized bibliographic system. The plan is currently under review by several foundations that share an interest in library services.

Because of the magnitude of the program and its cost, Mr. Haas said that special attention is being given to the management of the development effort. It is anticipated that a management committee will be formed with participation by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, the Library of Congress, and the Council on Library Resources itself. Special advisory groups will be used to obtain guidance in policy, operational, and technical matters.

At its meeting in November 1977, the advisory committee established a Steering Committee to articulate the issues to be brought before the full advisory committee and to prepare the agendas for its meetings. The chair of the Steering Committee, Edward E. Shaw, vice president and provost, Stanford University, and director of the BALLOTS Center, distributed a draft report which attempted to resolve some fundamental issues such as the credentials, goals, and objectives of the Network Advisory Committee.

The Steering Committee concluded that the best way to achieve both accountability and viability is to have the Network Advisory Committee reconstituted as an interim governing board until a permanent network coordinating agency is established. Mr. Shaw noted that this recommendation had been made in the absence of any other action. Subsequently, the proposed management committee mentioned earlier by Mr. Haas has incorporated the Steering Committee's recommendation.

Henriette D. Avram, director of the Library of Congress Network Development Office and vice chair of the advisory committee, reported on the activities of the Network Technical Architecture Group (NTAG) which was established by the advisory committee early in 1977. NTAG has completed a document presenting the general requirements for a message delivery system to link computerized facilities in the library bibliographic component. The advisory committee approved the report and instructed NTAG to proceed with the specifications of detailed requirements using contractual support. It was also recommended that the chief executive officers of the organizations whose systems will be linked should determine the implications and the cost of this effort.

The advisory committee had appointed a subcommittee to begin the task of determining the legal and organizational structure of the library bibliographic component. Mrs. Avram said that the subcommittee has completed a draft work statement, and since the members were not able to reconcile their differences, the draft is being distributed to the advisory committee and the Council for Computerized Library Networks with the minority opinion attached to it. The advisory committee was requested to respond to the draft work statement by July 17.

Mrs. Avram also reported on the progress of the work on authorities and a data base configuration. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science has awarded the Library of Congress a grant of $110,000 to perform the background studies

needed for the high-level design of the network data base configuration. This work is being performed under the direction of the Network Development Office with the assistance of Processing Services, the MARC Development Office, and the Bibliographic Systems Office. Edwin Buchinski of the National Library of Canada will be one of the investigators.

Specific tasks in progress include (1) a survey of American libraries to determine their practices and procedures with regard to authority files and to identify the cataloging codes and practices, subject headings, and classifications schemes used (Auerbach Associates has been awarded the contract to perform the survey); (2) agreement on the various options in the second edition of the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules* (agreement has been reached on virtually all of these options with the national libraries in Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia so that at least the largest English-speaking countries will follow the same practices); (3) compilation of statistics on the characteristics of headings used in MARC records (the Network Development Office is negotiating to have this work done); and (4) analysis of series authorities related to their creation, control, distribution, and placement in the set of MARC formats (Processing Services has begun preliminary work).

Mrs. Avram also announced the formation of a Bibliographic Advisory Committee to assist in this effort (see the LC *Information Bulletin* for May 19, pp. 313-314). The first meeting of the committee took place during the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in June.

Several groups, including the Association of American Publishers, the National Federation of Abstracting and Indexing Services, the Council for Computerized Library Networks, and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, have prepared white papers on their organizations' role in the evolving national network. These papers were reviewed by the Network Advisory Committee and discussed briefly in terms of inclusion as appendixes in the network planning paper. The deadline for receipt of papers from other groups is August 4.

Comments were solicited from members and observers of the advisory committee with regard to the future of and need for a Network Advisory Committee and a Steering Committee. The consensus was that both should be continued. The advisory committee passed a motion requesting that the Library of Congress, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and the Council on Library Resources hold a discussion with the advisory com-

Members of the Network Advisory Committee include the following:

American Library Association	Robert Wedgeworth (represented by Carol Henderson)
AMIGOS Bibliographic Council	James Kennedy
Association of Research Libraries	Richard Dougherty (University of California Library, Berkeley)
BALLOTS (Stanford University)	Edward Shaw
Bibliographical Center for Research	Donald Simpson
California Library Authority for Systems and Services	Ronald Miller
Council for Computerized Library Networks	Mary Jane Reed (Washington State Library)
Council on Library Resources	Warren J. Haas
Federal Library Committee	James P. Riley
Midwest Region Library Network	John Metz
National Agricultural Library	Richard Farley (represented by Jeanne Holmes)
National Commission on Libraries and Information Science	Alphonse Trezza
National Library of Medicine	Davis McCarn
Ohio College Library Center	Frederick Kilgour
Research Libraries Group	James Skipper
Southeastern Library Network	Charles Stevens
Special Libraries Association	Irving Klempner (State University of New York, Albany)
University of Chicago	Stanley McElderry
Washington Library Network	Roderick Swartz

The representative of the New England Library Information Network, John Linford, was not able to attend this meeting.

mittee before final conclusions are reached concerning the management of the library bibliographic component. The Steering Committee should be used for input if action is needed before the full advisory committee meets again. The Network Advisory Committee also endorsed the efforts of the Council on Library Resources to obtain funding for the development of the library bibliographic component.

The following organizations provided observers to the May 18-19 meeting: American Society for Information Science, Kieth Wright (University of Maryland); Association of American Publishers, Alexander Burke (represented by Sandra Paul); Association of Research Libraries, John Lorenz; Information Industry Association, Paul Zurkowski (represented by Margaret Jennings); Library of Congress, Lenore Maruyama and Carol Nemeyer; National Endowment for the Humanities, Margaret Child; National Federation of Abstracting and Indexing Services, Ronald Wigington (Chemical Abstracts); and White House Conference on Library and Information Services, Ruth Tighe. Eleanor Montague of the University of California at Riverside Library was present as consultant.

After planning the program for an open meeting at the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in Chicago, the Network Advisory Committee scheduled its next meeting for September 25-26. [*Lenore S. Maruyama*]

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